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NOTES

ON THE

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NOTES

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CLELAND FAMILY

by

Stillman Foster Kneeland

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These notes are copied from a manuscript owned by Mr. Arthur M. Fisher, Attorney at Law, 435 Terrace Street, North, Janesville, Wisconsin by Mrs. Glenn Oliver, 3411 Cribbon Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming August 1961.

Mr. Fisher is a descendant of Samuel and Jane Martin Cleland who came to America in 1816 from County Down, Ireland and whose Irish ancestry goes back to Arthur Cleland who lived in the Bangor section of County Down in 1631.

A "plantation" by British subjects as tenants was begun in County Down in 1605 under the direction of King James I. It is believed that the first Clelands came from Scotland to Ireland at this time. Mr. Stillman Foster Kneeland's notes continue beyond what has been copied here, but as they pertain to Clelands who came to America at the time the ancestors of the above Samuel Cleland went to Ireland, and have no connection with the descendants of Samuel, they have been omitted.

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PREFACE

Some ten years ago the "Encyclopedia of Contemporary Biography" of New York, published a biographical sketch of the writer, which contained an alleged genealogical summary of the Kneeland family in this country. A little study satisfied me that the editor was several miles out of the correct path in his data. Prompted on by the discovery of this fact, I commenced a systematic inquiry into the heretofore of the family, running back several centuries, and in the completion thereof have examined critically some thousand or volume and tens or thousands of names, inscribed on musty records in the coldest archives of the past.

Although the history, prior to 1800, has been mostly made up from bible entries, public records, historical and genealogical works, the continuation could never have been perfected but for the assistance of numerous members of the family, to whom general credit is herewith given and specific mention is hereinafter inserted.*

The fact that not a single criminal act has appeared to mar a history covering nearly seven centuries, has, after all, made the work a labor of love. That fact is a wonderful stimulus to each living and future member of the family, and a warning against being the first to break the record of such an un-abiding, honorable race.

I will not insult the intelligence of my readers by claiming for this work absolute accuracy. The sources of information have not always been of the highest character; but I have given the matter the benefit of such judicial discrimination as an experience of over a quarter of a century at the bar ought to have endowed me with, and have stated the result as the best possible solution that can be reached by me, at this late day, of the problems involved in the somewhat tangled skein of evidences gathered together during the past ten years. With the aid of individual criticisms, and the tardy suggestions and statements that always, in a work of this kind, lag along a few days too late, some worthier successor, will, I hope, build upon this feeble foundation, a monument of the race.

STILLMAN FOSTER KNEELAND

New York, 1897.

* These names are not found in the notes. This suggests that Mr. Arthur Fisher's manuscript is only part of the original.

the Clendons. It was the first and most important of these. In the early part of the seventeenth century, even the name of the clan was changed and it became CLILAND or CLILAND instead of Kneland or Kneland.

Kneland, now the property of North Dalrymple Esq. on the South Caithness, is a large and elegant seat. It is in Lanarkshire.

The change to Cliland from Kneland was a slight one at the time. The name was originally pronounced K-neland, the 'K' being sounded as if 'K-neland'. The change to Cliland was therefore only the substitution of a single letter.

The Cliland coat of arms-- a bear with a resting horn supported from its neck and, as a crest, a falcon upon a mailed hand with two grasping for supporters. This has probably been in the family since the days of Bruce.

* * *

"Guard your name, my son. Cherish it, think of it as a name worthy of the best that's in you. Keep your body clean and strong. Life is very beautiful when you meet it with a sweet and fine body, heart and mind. Keep a stiff upper lip, son, never lose your nerve. Lose everything else if you must but never that. If you can remember that one thing and always love you home and family, I'll never worry about you."

* * *

GENESIS

According to well established tradition, the Kneelands were among the ancient Vikings that overran Northern Europe prior to the tenth century, and finally settled in Scotland and elsewhere, becoming lairds of captured lands. We have no trace of our family prior to the thirteenth century, the record commencing with Alexander Kneeland, who was born about 1225.

Burke, in his "Landed Gentry", p. 227, title "Cleland," says: "The family of Cleland (formerly spelled Kneland) is of great antiquity in Scotland. Their coat of Arms, tradition states, were acquired through being hereditary foresters to the ancient Earls of Douglas. The first of the family of whom there is any record was Alexander Kneland. He was living in the reign of Alexander III, and married Margaret, daughter of Adam Wallace, of Riccarton, Scotland. She was the sister of Sir. Malcolm Wallace, who was the father of Sir William Wallace."

Anderson, in his "Scottish Nation," Vol. II, p. 617, under the title of "Kneland," says: "Kneland, a surname derived from the lands of Kneland, in Lanarkshire. The first of the family on record, Alexander Kneland, of that ilk (i.e., Alexander Kneland of Kneland), living in the time of Alexander III, married Margaret, daughter of Adam Wallace, of Riccarton, grandfather of Sir William Wallace, the hero of Scotland," etc.

CHARACTERISTICS

Strong of constitution, religious, combative, selfopinionated, honest, temperate, too much given to hospitality and humanity to be overruthful or overrich, yet withal independent, mirthful, happy, intensely desirous of the goodwill of others, always holding to a goodwill of themselves (or, as the Scots put it, having a great "conceit of themselves"), hopeful, good-natured, cheerful, always inspiring hope and cheer in others-- these are the qualities of the race, however much they may differ in the individual.

The NAME and the LANDS

Both Parkes and Anderson make the mistake of locating Alexander Kneil in Lanarkshire. The error probably arose from the fact that the Kneil estate was located in that county. As a matter of fact, Alexander Kneil resided in Gowrie, where he was in the enjoyment of a lucrative living. The Lanarkshire lands were granted by Bruce to Alexander's son, James Kneil, for gallant services in the battle of Bannockburn, and remained in the family for four centuries, as we shall see hereafter.

At the end of his chapter on "Cleland" (Scottish Nation, Vol. I, pp. 643-4), Anderson says: "The name was formerly Kneiland, with the 'K' pronounced. In 1603, Andrew Kneiland was Justice deputy, and there are several instances of Cleland or Cleland being called Kneiland or Kneiland; thus of the persons who were 'belated' for being art and part of the death of King Henry Barnaby, were William Kneiland, of that ilk and Arthur Kneiland, or Kneihobbihill-- afterwards softened into Connoblehill-- in the parish of Shotts." *

This William Kneiland is the one referred to as "William Cleland, the 10th of that ilk, eminent for his loyalty to Queen Mary," etc. in Burke's "Landed Gentry." Both he and his son Capt. John Kneiland, were eminent in their devotion to this luckless Queen, but all the records give the name as Kneiland instead of Cleland.

As we have noted, upon the primal stem of the Kneiland family were grafted many branches different in spelling but retaining all the attributes of the good old stock.

ATTRIBUTES

However the clan changes its name, it never loses its attributes: its love of liberty, together with the desire and ability to fight its battles. In times of peace they have been men of peace; in times of war, warriors-- emblematic of the Scottish thistle that pricks only when pressed from the outside.

* Capt. John Kneiland, younger son of the above William Kneiland, was the founder of the first line of Kneilands (Clelands) in America. It is believed that the above Arthur Kneiland (Cleland) or his son was the founder of the first line of Clelands in County Down, Ireland.

line's pedigree in the possession of the present Rose-Cleland, I extract the following as persons from whom the Cleland family are descended, through intermarriage of ancestors: Sir John Lowatt; Sir John Kerring; Sir John Hamilton, ancestor of the Lords of Burgany; Earl of Northall, third husband of Queen Mary Stuart; Lord Barnley, second husband of Queen Mary Stuart; Alexander Stewart, High Steward of Scotland; James V of Scotland; James Douglas, ancestor of the Earle of Morton; William de Hay, ancestor of Lord Hay; Sir Alexander Livingston, ancestor of the Earls of Lillienthal; James Douglas, Earl of Dalkeith; Gilbert Graham, Earl of Strathern; William Ross, Earl of Ross; Adam Gordon, Lord Gordon; Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland; Adam Wallace, grandfather of Sir William Wallace; Cedric, King of the West Saxons; Charlemagne; Alfred the Great; Capet, King of France; Rollo, Duke of Normandy; Baldwin the Third, Earl of Flanders; Sigard, Earl of Northumberland; William the Conqueror; Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland; Hugh Nevilock, Earl of Chester; Wallern, Earl of Warrert; Roger de Bellamont, Lord of Port Armanan; Adolph de gauder, Earl of the East Angles; Hugh de Grantmesnil, Great Steward of England; Norman de Leslie, ancestor of the Earle of Rothes; and the families of Gurgundy, Valeis and Vermandois.

All this is set forth in Burke's "Landed Gentry," title "Cleland." Personally, I do not stand sponsor for the truth of all this ancestry, though history proves much of it. I simply give it from Burke, who is trusted by all aspirants and adored by all hero worshipers.

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me
'Tis only noble to be good;
Kind hearts are more than Coronets,
And simple faith, than Norman blood."

* Although the Rose-Cleland line is an Irish one, it stems from the above William Cleland, 10th of that ilk. Therefore it is most likely that many of the illustrious ancestors named above do not belong to descendants of that Arthur Cleland whose name is on the Crown muster rolls in County Lown in 1631.

THE "PARSON O'GOWRIE" AND KNEELAND OF
THAT ILK.

1. ALEXANDER KNEELAND. Born about 1225. He was named after the reigning King of Scotland, Alexander III; was a wealthy prelate residing at Kilspendie, in Gowrie, Scotland, and married Margaret Wallace, of Duncartoun, who was the daughter of Adam Wallace, of that place, and the aunt of Sir William Wallace. He was therefore the uncle, by marriage, of Sir William, who resided with and received his early education and love of liberty from him. This venerable old man is thus referred to by Harry, the minstrel--Blind Harry--in his "Wallace & Bruce," (Book I, lines 191 to 195), speaking of "in William Wallace in his boyhood; (* the quotes are not given in the original

Kerr, in his "History of Scotland," (Vol I, p. 119) says of this Parson O'Gowrie: "It is said in the Scotichronicon that an uncle, who was a priest, strongly inculcated on William Wallace the following in monkish latin, inspiring him to preserve it in his memory as the invariable guide of his life:

"Verily I say unto^{you}, liberty is the best of things; never live under a servile yoke."

In Kinlock's "History of Scotland," p. 133, we find the following reference to Parson Alexander Kneeland: "He (Wallace) had grown up with an instinctive hatred for the English which was fostered by his uncle, a priest, who was perpetually bemoaning the banished freedom of his unhappy land."

Many writers on Scottish history have confounded this uncle with the Parson of Dunipace, who befriended Wallace in after years. These are clearly separate individuals living in separate localities and with manifestly divergent opinions. The latter uncle, or "eyne", as he is invariably called by Blind Harry, advised Sir William, in the midst of his difficulties, to give up the contest and accept a gift of lands and peerage under the English King. The Parson O'Gowrie could never have brought himself to that way of thinking. The former is always spoken of by Harry as the "Uncle", and the latter as the "eyne" of Wallace. Although these words have been considered as equivalent, yet the distinction was notably observed by the bard.

It is clear that the Parson of Dunipace was a Wallace. The name of the other uncle does not appear in Harry's poem. Kerr, after speaking of the Dunipace uncle, says; "Another uncle is mentioned as aged and having a good living at Kilspendie, in Gowrie, but whether paternally or maternally related does not appear." (Vol. I, Kerr's "History of Scotland," p. 120.)

I do not find, from the Canonical Records of Scotland, that any uncle of Wallace was a CATHOLIC prelate. He probably was at the head of a dissenting church. I find, from a thorough examination of the records, that the Gowrie uncle was neither a brother of Sir Malcolm Wallace (who was the father of Sir William) nor a Crawford (The maiden name of his mother), all the Wallaces and Crawfords being otherwise accounted for. As Malcolm Wallace only had one sister, Margaret, who married Alexander Kneeland, it follows, that Alexander Kneeland MUST have been the uncle to whom Wallace was indebted for his early education and love of liberty, and Scotland indebted for the inspiration of that love. We have no record of his family except for his eldest son and heir.

2. **James Kneland** (Alexander). The second of that ilk. It would have been impossible to have been the son of the prelate who instilled into the mind of Wallace such an enthusiastic love of liberty without being filled with the same zeal. James Kneland was more than a lover of liberty. He was pre-eminently a fighter for it. He was one of those zealous, sterling, unwavering, brave Scottish chiefs who gave Scott and Burns a basis for their inspiration, and the world its admiration for the "Heroes of Scotland." James Kneland had the rare privilege of being individualized in poetry. The earliest of the Scottish poets--Henry the Minstrel--writing two hundred years after his death, but basing his poem on the History of Wallace (now extant) written by John Blair, who was Sir William's chaplain, speaking of the assembling of the clan before the battle of Stirling, says (Book III, line 35, etc.): "

Again, speaking of the sea fight of the "Red Rover," the same poet says:

Later on, in the same fight, he puts it in the mouth of Wallace to say (Book III, line 132, etc.): "

It will be noted from a full reading of Blind Harry's historical verses, that Wallace, who had learned that the Scottish nobility were not to be depended upon, relied for advice and assistance upon a band of relatives, consisting of the lesser barons of Scotland. They included the three sons of his uncle, Sir Richard Crawford, the sheriff of Riccartoun, Adam, Richard and Simon Crawford; his cousin, James Kneland, and his nephew, Edward Littell, "and Edward Littell his sister's son so der." United with these were a few other boon companions, most conspicuous of whom were Squire Robert Boyd and John Blair, his chaplain.

James Kneland joined his cousin, Sir William Wallace, in 1296, in his attempts to restore the liberties of the country. He was present at most of the exploits of Wallace, particularly at Loudoun Hill, July 1296; the battle of Stirling, September 13, 1297, and at the disastrous battle of Falkirk, July 22, 1298. He sailed with his illustrious cousin to France and assisted in the sea battle with "Thomas of Longueville," commonly called the "Red Rover." After the death of Sir William, he firmly supported the cause of King Robert the Bruce and was present with his eldest son, John Kneland, at the battle of Bannockburn, where he was severely wounded. For his loyalty and good-service that King gave to him several lands in the Barony of Calder, West Lothian, in Linlithgowshire (now Lanarkshire), which remained in the family several hundred years (see Burke's "Landed Gentry," title "Cleland," and Anderson's History of Scotland, "). He was succeeded by his eldest son and heir:

3. **JOHN KNELAND** (James, Alexander). This is the first on record of a long race of John Kneelands and John Clelands. While yet a boy he fought with his father in the battle of Bannockburn, under Robert the Bruce, and thereafter took a hand in every opportunity to strike a blow against the foes of Scotland, ending his active career by being captured with the reigning monarch, David the Second, at the battle of Durham or "Neville's Cross," October 17, 1346. He was a staunch adherent and follower of Alexander Murray, of Bothwell and of "Robert the Steward," afterwards King Robert II. His eldest son and heir was:

* The quotes are not included in the notes.

4. JOHN KNELAND (John, James, Alexander). A John Knieland--the first record we have of that spelling--was severely wounded while leading a band of Scotsmen at the unfortunate battle of Poitiers, in 1357, which led to the treaty of Berwick, October 3, 1357. As John Kneland, Sr. fought in the battle of Bannockburn, in 1314, and at Dunham, in 1346, it cannot be presumed that he could have survived to fight for his sovereign in 1357. As the warrior seem to have been confined to the heirs "of that ilk", I am safe in putting this John down as John, Jr., who spelled his name as then pronounced, and as some of his successors still spell it. This is all the information I can gather of John, and is more than Burke or Cleland-Rose discovered, for with them, there was a break in the John to William. I have, after much scurrying around, succeeded in finding Knelands during this interim which supply the missing links.

5. JOHN KNELAND (John, John, James, Alexander). What right a Kneland of Calder had to interfere in the quarrels of Donald, Lord of the Isles, after the old house of Douglass had been made satisfied with the condition of affairs at the beginning of the Sixteenth Century, is more than I can understand, except it may be a touch of the Irishman's desire to hit a head wherever he could see it. Certain it is, however, that we find the name of John Kneland in the conflict at Harlow, May 17, 1412, the "Otterburn" of the "Northern Ballads." As this fills a gap between John and William, I shall claim it as our own and brand him John Kneland. That is all I know about him and the aforesaid gap, and this is from historical ballads rather than from history. There is, however, this to be added--the name stated is John Kneland OF THAT ILK, meaning John Kneland who resided at Kneland. As no one could occupy this property except the heir, and as the date is too late for Kneeland, and as the sixth heir was William, it necessarily follows that it must have been the oldest son of John Kneland, viz., John Kneland.

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6. WILLIAM KNELAND (John, John, John, James, Alexander). Little is known of him except that he was a man of education and much given to hunting. Burke, in his "Landed Gentry," confounds him with his son William, who succeeded him. He (William) was one of the witnesses, in 1445, to the charter of the lands of Watston, granted by James, Lord Hamilton, to Sir William Baillie, of Hoprigg. Now this act could be ascribed to William when the latter was not old enough to be married until 1462, is more than I can comprehend, any more than I can understand the statement that he was William "Cleland", in the face of the fact that it is written "Kneland" in the deed.

7. WILLIAM KNELAND (William, John, John, John, James, Alexander). "The seventh of that ilk." In other words, the seventh Kneland, of Kneland, or residing at Kneland. He was married in 1462--soon after James the Third had ascended to the throne of Scotland--to Jean Sommerville, daughter of William de Sommerville, second Lord Sommerville by his wife, Janet Mowat, daughter of Sir John Mowat. From this marriage descended the several branches of the Kneland family, to wit--Kneland of Faskine, Kneland of Monkland and Kneland of Cartness, making with Kneland of Kneland, four sons who became heads of distinct families.

Discussion

A short reference to these families may now be in order.

The Cartness family terminated in an heiress previous to the middle of the eighteenth Century, who married Sir William Vere, of Blackwood, in the same county.

William Kneland, of Faskine, was killed, together with his cousin, Alexander Kneland, of Kneland, at the battle of Flodden, in 1513.

About the beginning of the Seventeenth Century, Sir James Kneland purchased the barony of Monkland from Sir Thomas Hamilton, of Binning, first Earl of Haddington, but his son, Lodovick, sold it to James, Marquis of Hamilton. On the sixth of September, 1615, this Sir James Kneland, of Monkland, was with two others, indicted for "Treasonable resetting Jesuites, hearing of mass," etc., offenses very seriously punished in those days, but the diet was deserted against them. Sir James was sometimes called "Cleland," and is one of the first of the Knelands to spell his name in that way. The Monkland family, which is still extant, spell their name at present with a 'K', but give it in the form of the old pronunciation--'Kineiland.' (See "Kineiland, of Monkland," in the works of Heraldry by Berry and Burke). This is the only one of the several branches that preserves intact the original Kneland Coat of Arms, as shown in the work of Sir Thomas Lyndsay, issued in 1542, though the Clelands have the same, with slight modification.

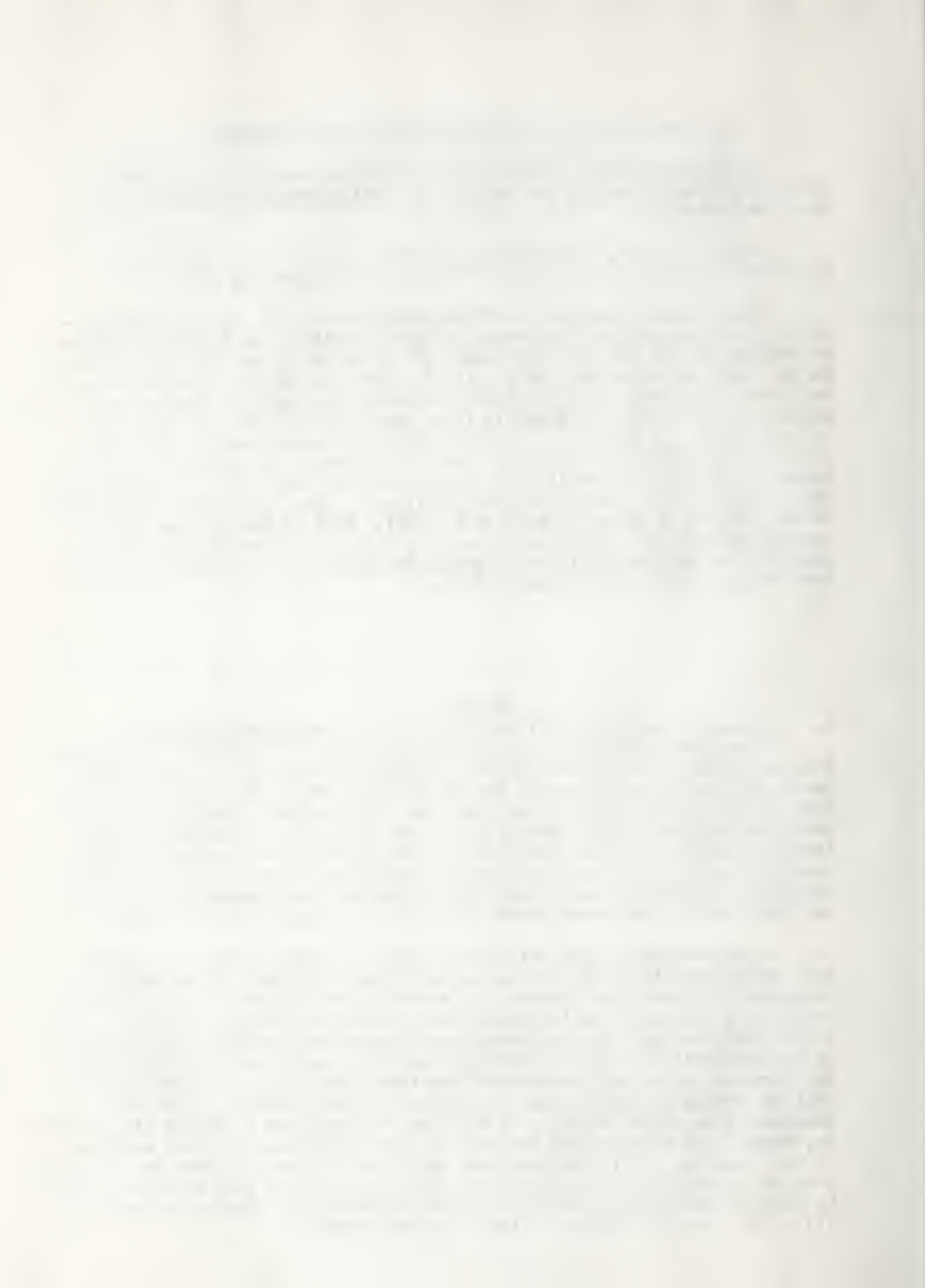
* * *

William

8. Alexander Kneland. (William, John, John, James, Alexander).

"The eighth of that ilk." He was very much of a fighter, a strong partisan and friend of King James IV, of Scotland, and was killed at the fatal battle of Flodden, on the ninth day of September, 1513. To a charter of the date of 1466, there was appended a seal of this Alexander Kneland, upon which was a hare salient with a hunting horn about his neck. It is just possible that this coat of Arms was given him by King James IV to commemorate their hunting exploits. The Crest is equally significant of its origin: A falcon standing on a sinister hand glove ppr.; supporter, two greyhounds ppr. Motto, over the Crest, "Non sibi"; under the arms, "Je pense a qui pense plus."

Tradition states that this Coat of Arms was acquired at a very early date and related to their position as hereditary foresters of the Earls of Douglass. It cannot be objected that a hare would not have a horn around its neck at a period prior to the adoption of powder for hunting purposes. It is a fact that gunpowder was not extensively manufactured or used for sporting in England until the days of Elizabeth, nearly a century after this period. But "hunting horns" had been in use from time immemorial. Some were made to call the hounds and falcon, and others for drinking purposes. That the Knelands were expert huntsmen at the time of King James IV and of his successor, James V, is evident from the fact of their attendance on those monarchs in that capacity. It is probable that their Coat of Arms had been in the family from the earliest period of Heraldry. If not, then they must have been given by Bruce to James Kneland with the lands conferred upon him, or by King James III or IV, in commemoration of their hunting exploits.



9. JAMES KNELAND (Alexander, William, William, John, John, John, James, Alexander). "The ninth of that ilk." An eminent man in the time of King James V, whom he frequently attended at hunting. He married a daughter of Hapburn, of Bonnytown, who was the son of Patrick, Lord Halls, Earl of Bothwell. King James was probably one of the best examples of the Stuart family, save and except the founder thereof, Robert III. He was a vigorous administrator and protected the poor from oppression by the nobles. From his intimate relation to the common people, he was often termed the "King of the Commons," and his cognate was "the gude man of Ballinoreich." To this popular monarch James Kneland was a favorite courtier, and fought bravely for him in the disastrous field at Solway Moss, November 25, 1542, where he was severely wounded. James V had several natural sons, and one of his granddaughters of the ilk married a grandson of James Kneland, but his only legitimate heir was the unfortunate Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, who was devotedly loved and defended by the son and heir of James Kneland of Kneland.

10. Maj. William Kneland (James, Alexander, William, William, John, John, John, James, Alexander). "The tenth Kneland of that ilk," who was as above suggested, eminent for his loyalty to Queen Mary of the Scots. The Queen's favor and his known attachment to her and the desire to further her supposed wishes, led him into difficulties, for he was suspected of being privy to the sudden taking off of Her Majesty's discarded husband and cousin, Lord Darnley. William Kneland of Kneland and Arthur Kneland, of Knowbottill, in the parish of Shotts, were "delated"--that is, accused in court in connection with this affair.

It will be remembered that Lord Darnley was blown up by gunpowder while confined by sickness in the house known as "Kirk of Field," on the tenth day of February, 1567. The parties to this crime were, undoubtedly, the Earl of Bothwell, who planned, and his servants who executed it. Their confessions prove this much. But who the accomplices were has from that day to this been debated without conclusive answer. That they were persons in high favor with Mary is evident, as her own skirts were not free from stain. The charge against the two Knelands, although unproven, had a decided influence upon the future of the family, and may have been instrumental in splitting it into fragmentary branches, each following its own ideas of spelling the family name.

The queen, having been educated in France, was an ardent Catholic, at a period when the Reformation was in full vigor of early manhood in her Scottish kingdom. Naturally, her most intimate supporters were of the old faith, notwithstanding the breach thus made with others of the same family who were the followers of John Knox. It is probably for this reason that the Coat of Arms given by the Queen to William or his son, Captain John Kneland, which contained in addition to the lion of Scotland, the cross of Rome, was not accepted by those of the same name not closely connected with the crown. Capt. John Kneland, who was a younger son of Major William Kneland, and who had a touch of the old Viking forefathers, adopted the sea for a profession, retained the original parchment creating the Coat of Arms, and the precious document is still in the possession of his descendants in America, and was reproduced in part by other branches of the family, as we have shown elsewhere.

the eldest son and heir of this William Kneland, who succeeded to the estate of Kneland, changed the spelling of the name to "Cleland," and he first that to be the name of the Knelands of the ilk and of the estate thereafter. Whether this was done consciously to draw a line of demarkation between the papist forefathers and the protestant descendants, and to eliminate some of them under suspicion of a crime, or whether it occurred through accident, will probably never be determined. Certain it is that from that time forward the Knelands, of Kneland, became the "Clelands of Cleland."

11. William CLELAND, of that ilk, was the eldest son and heir of William Kneland, the loyal friend of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots. He married a sister of Walter Stewart, first Lord Blantyre, daughter of James Stewart and granddaughter of King James V.

12. Alexander CLELAND, 12th and last of that ilk, married Mary, sister of John Hamilton, first Lord Bargany, and his spouse, Margaret Campbell, daughter of Rev. Alexander Campbell, Bishop of Brechin, who was denounced from the Duke of Argyll. By her he had several sons, the eldest of whom sold the lands of Kneland (then designated as Cleland) to a cousin of his own name. From this point the heirship is broken.



